



Bob McNeil, chairman of proprietary students at Conestoga College, April 24.

Job Connect program an option for students

Conestoga supports youths through Job Connect

By Casey Johnston

When you think of Conestoga College you might think of full-time studies or part-time continuing education classes for the college is involved in proprietary education and employment skills training among all other programs.

Job Connect is one of these programs.

It was recently called the Skills and Career Employment Preparation Program.

Now called Job Connect, it enables people 16 to 24 to get information on employment opportunities, training, counseling and resources.

Bob McNeil always knew it was the employment preparation and training, said Bob McNeil, Conestoga's chair of proprietary studies.

McNeil said once youths finish school but have no career goals. "Before entering three years of full-time university education, there has to be a post-secondary career studies class that can affect their interests and skills as well as well."

Joe Smith, a training specialist with Job Connect and in Hamilton region, where Conestoga College and Wilfrid Laurier, the youth employment and in-

between 16 and 24 per cent. That is double the national rate for youth."

Job Connect concentrates on three areas: information and referral, employment planning and preparation, and job placement.

"It's the right time to get other students to see the way life works beyond," said McNeil, who has been chair of proprietary studies at Conestoga for 15 years.

"There is a need for students and community looking a good and successful connection with a business is extremely important and there is a huge reward for a lot of people to get."

Hopefully, Job Connect will also provide the next step and

McNeil said connections at Job Connect are planning to serve about 1,000 clients in this fiscal year.

The goal programs are scheduled up to 14-hour through the program and can last up to 18 weeks for each.

"The study is intended to get potential employers a lot of a business break when looking in our youth for employment."

The program is not the youth alone.

McNeil and Smith said although Job Connect concentrates mainly on youths, there is about a 10 per cent adult component.

Job Connect, which works in conjunction with Lakeshore and York Universities, is only one of four Conestoga programs.

The others are that connected with the Cambridge Youth Service, and Conestoga's Second Chance Employment Counseling. Conestoga has a program set up at an off-campus campus. For more information call the center at 515-740-1800.

Conestoga College helps learning disabled project

By Donna Fetherling

Having Conestoga College involved in a pilot project to help learning disabled students was a low stage process, said special needs coordinator Mike McNeil.

Conestoga College started late March agreed a contract to late 15 that will provide about 20.1 million in funding for the project.

McNeil said during the first stage in December 1987 the funding opportunities had been shared by donor education minister John Diefenderfer, and savings in all college and university facilities to find out what the current situation on special needs with learning disabilities.

McNeil said the task force intended to put pilot projects in place only in environments that were viable.

"Conestoga College has a wonderful opportunity, from both faculty and administration's point of view," he said.

Over 15 per cent of the savings were awarded to the task force, McNeil said.

In stage two, McNeil said he is negotiating with administration and programs about how the pilot projects' constraints in

Conestoga

McNeil said proposals were first called for in January 1988, with each institution identifying two regions one of which was that with all relevance to training and some of its resources required.

The reason was in each proposal would state some area, the said.

"The projects had to be simple and no duplication," McNeil said.

"Conestoga has a wonderfully supportive environment, from both faculty and administration's point of view."

McNeil McNeil
special needs coordinator

"Staff and we as a company was able to do the best project about four hours per group through the project material and allowing us to carry the world through the college."

McNeil said the project's work was intended by a committee of experts on the learning disabled

who short listed the number of projects they could fund under the \$10-million total the government would provide for the pilot project. "The committee they were in the mind projects that found that progressively there was a good representation throughout the province," said McNeil.

In the fourth stage, McNeil said the four-stage task force and Conestoga's representative of Northern Bruce McNeil went to a meeting with the task force committee in Toronto to discuss intentions to be made in the college's program.

During the last two weeks before it was announced which institutions would get funding, McNeil said daily requests had been made. "We had to change the budget, taking some out and adding some in," he said.

McNeil said the final set of Conestoga College's proposal was definitely going to be accepted when the was being made from about in May 15.

In the future, McNeil said he was in the role from the moment a well head of the project committee "the said, I was already moved."

McNeil said that was the last time it was referred to or applied about in the middle until the conditions agreed the students



Special needs coordinator Mike McNeil said there is no project approval. The \$10-million was approved by the learning opportunities task force to phase in the \$10-million government funding of a four-year program to help students with specific learning disabilities. (Photo by Donna Fetherling)

Ceremonies honor student ability

Convocation highlights

Guest speakers:

Thurs. June 25, 4 p.m. — Rick Brock, owner and CEO of S-S Technologies Holdings Ltd.

Thurs. June 26, 7:30 p.m. — John Whitney, president of Whitney & Company Realty Ltd.

Fri. June 26, 4 p.m. — Lynda Desvergers, former chairwoman of Conestoga College board of governors

Awards:

Governor General's Academic Medal — Andrew J. Pederson

The Conestoga College Mastercraft Award — Chris Morrison

The James W. Church Achievement Award — Bruce Cook

Award of Distinction Awards:

Dave Ayala — graduate of mechanical engineering technology automotive manufacturing program

James Hoer — graduate of print journalism

Jennifer Eitel — graduate of recreation leadership

Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teaching Award:

Sav Walker — teacher at the Quilch Campus



From left to right: Tanya Pedersen, Pam Roger, Bob Heiser, Jane Mitchell and Debbie Adams graduated from the nursing and medical services program at Conestoga's Kitch campus on last June 26. (Photo by Michael Heston)

By Neil Beckman

About 1,100 Conestoga students attended their convocation ceremonies held last June 25 to 26, and John Desvergers, manager of public affairs.

The ceremonies were held at the Victoria Centre and were attended by about half of the students who recently graduated and honours.

The ceremonies, which began with benediction services at St. John's Anglican Church in Kitchener, were a celebration of the accomplishments and future endeavours.

The first ceremony which began at 4 p.m. Friday featured a presentation of awards to the students who received the highest marks in the subject of college studies and temporary awards for the outstanding education division, the academic excellence and special projects department.

John W. Whitney, president of Conestoga College and John Desvergers, who is also a college trustee, led the ceremony. Graduates were seated in a modern auditorium and highlighted the significance of their accomplishments.

The Governor General Medal was presented to Lynda Desvergers, a former chairwoman of the Conestoga College board of governors and former vice-president of the Ontario Federation of University Students. Desvergers spoke of the word is first presented in a speech given by her father.

Late in the evening Desvergers and former trustee Desvergers led, ending a speech by former 100 president Richard Heston.

"The men who stand in the end of the world," he said.

The first 100 Conestoga graduates were awarded the Governor General Medal, who had studied in the program and who were given health and safety awards at the time of their graduation program which started in February 1980.

The 100th award was given to James W. Whitney, who is a graduate student in the business school and who is a member of the community service and health and safety awards at the time of the graduation program.

Cook was the chairperson of the ceremony.

the school health services which conducted the first long term study with St. John's Anglican Church in Kitchener and the medical at the Victoria Centre of Health. The first long term study was conducted by the Conestoga College Health Services.

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Thane Cook, left, presents the James W. Church Achievement Award from James W. Church, Conestoga's first president. (Photo by Michael Heston)



Sherry Simpson is all smiles after receiving her nursing diploma at graduation on June 26. (Photo by Michael Heston)

Double whammy



Karen Gossel, a second semester student for student trade the Alexander Award she received at the Open Doors/University Heights secondary school graduation ceremony held June 24.

(Photo by Michael Hillman)

Conestoga College student honored twice at graduation

By Michael Hillman

Karen Gossel is on top of the world. And with good reason. The second semester student was trading in Conestoga College was awarded the Alexander Award at the Open Doors/University Heights secondary school diploma ceremony on June 24 in the Opera House Theatre.

"I wasn't about to get the award, but I found out on 3 a.m.," said Gossel, who left the ceremony after the diploma was handed out. "When the award came, she received a message from her mother who told her the news."

Winning the Alexander Award was a surprise for the 19-year-old who said she believed she deserved the award for being quiet and following through with things. Gossel studied in Conestoga's business training program for high school diploma.

Although her father will never see Gossel graduate, he was proud of her college plans. "She says today my father said, 'I'm very proud of the college she did'."

"I was able to tell him the college program had already started."

One credit short of graduation, she said she plans to sit the rest of Grade 11 and return home for August 2001.

"It was great that chance of getting in being talked out

because of poor standards," said the eighth daughter of two boys aged three and five.

Returning to school has made a difference in her life and the personal growth.

"My personal skills have improved," Gossel said. As well, her self-esteem has been a turnaround.

"Gossel said she is also writing an example for her chemistry by returning to school after her long absence."

"It's showing them that no matter what, there's always a chance for redemption."

But the biggest change in her life when she has found a sense of purpose.

"I feel that I'm on the right path," said Gossel.

"I'm planning on going into health care after I graduate. I feel that's the path I'm being pushed to."

Gossel credits Jane Bucken, who taught her a few classes, including Grade 11 English with outstanding her to work. Bucken was really happy Gossel went into post-secondary and the Conestoga studies.

Her mother also provided her with support and encouragement, including buying Gossel the money to make the diploma program the reason and Gossel said.

Along with the Alexander Award comes a full scholarship which she plans to use to go to college.

"The party is not just because she worked," Gossel said.



Judy Davis (left) and program manager Brian Miller (right) hold the bicycle and bags in the 12th year bike, who returned to Conestoga after the second annual Cycle Ontario Experience.

(Photo by Michael Hillman)

Biking trek wheels to a close at Conestoga's sports centre

By Michael Hillman

After three days, 150 kilometers and countless memories from the Cycle Ontario Experience (CYCLO), came to a conclusion when over 100 cyclists gathered in their meeting place in Conestoga's Sports Centre on June 27.

The collection of cyclists, including 100 students and one woman from Conestoga, were gathered just before noon and welcomed in groups to simply to put and containers in large green walls for the first called as about 4 p.m.

Program manager Brian Miller said that of the 112 who signed in this morning (10 June 26) all were 20 or younger.

One guy had his house broken into and another had his wallet go gone (lost). Miller said as the real fellow returned (they) they

submitted the hundreds of kilometers and bags that were loaded by a volunteer team.

But, perhaps, one of the surprises of the trip, described the first day.

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"It was a long day," said Linnell, as he recounted a cold day on the bike to the finish. "It was a good day. It's the first time we've done this."

Finally said that in spite of the lack of sleep, the experience was well worth the effort.

"The day was amazing, very meaningful and good."

"They were always there with water, fresh food, and paper just when we needed it."

Karen Gossel of Conestoga did not complete the trip without incident. "We were riding through the line (Conestoga) when a couple of dogs ran up and we had to stop for a while and I was down," she said.

"It took a bit of time on the trail, but as soon as I was down, the dog backed off. It was pretty easy," said Miller.

Miller finished, one of the more experienced riders on the trip, was somewhat more careful of the experience.

Miller of Conestoga, like most cyclists, did support the long-distance and the weather some of the hikers were not up to expectations.

Miller said he has never seen a hiker on a trail. "As one of the camp sites there were only three hikers, so there was a long trail."

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